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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/696,899	10/29/2003	Dean Jeffrey Bidwell	2000P09037US02	9252

7590 05/06/2004
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EXAMINER

EDWARDS, ANTHONY Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2835

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/696,899

Applicant(s)

BIDWELL ET AL.

Examiner

Anthony Q. Edwards

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 9, 13-21, 23 and 24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 10-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/29/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7, 10-12 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jingu. Referring to claim 1, Jingu discloses a moveable stand (20) for operating a data system, the moveable stand comprising a control panel (46) on the stand, and an accessory device (84) having a user interface (i.e., slot opening), the accessory device on the stand, and a transducer connector (82) on a vertical portion of the stand, the user interface of the accessory device and transducer connector on different sides of the control panel relative to the operator position (see Fig. 9).

Jingu does not specifically disclose the control panel oriented at more than 10 degrees and less than 80 degrees to the user interface of the accessory device and to the transducer connector, the orientation relative to an operator position. Jingu does teach, however, the ability to position or orient the control panel (46) as claimed, utilizing post (24) and arm (26). See Figs. 5 and 7 and the corresponding specification.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to orient or position the control panel of Jingu within the range claimed by the applicant with respect to the user interface of the accessory device and the transducer connector,

relative to an operator position, in order to provide the most comfortable and ergonomically efficient position for the user of the movable stand.

Referring to claim 2, Jingu discloses a movable, wherein the control panel (46) is positionable to be oriented between the connector and the user interface at an angle more than 30 degrees and less than 60 degrees. See Fig. 7 and the corresponding specification.

Referring to claim 3, Jingu discloses a movable stand, wherein the control panel (46) is positionable to be oriented between the connector and the user interface at angle more than 40 degrees and less than 50 degrees. See Fig. 7 and the corresponding specification.

Referring to claim 4, Jingu discloses a movable stand, wherein the control panel (46) is positionable to be oriented between the connector and the user interface at an angle of about 45 degrees. See Fig. 7 and the corresponding specification.

Referring to claim 5, Jingu discloses a movable stand, wherein the control panel (46) is positionable to be oriented at more than 10 degrees and less than 80 degrees to any side of the accessory device (84), the accessory device comprising a generally rectilinear volume-having four sides, a top and a bottom. See Figs. 7 and 9 and the corresponding specification.

Referring to claim 6, Jingu discloses a movable stand, wherein the control panel comprises at least a keyboard, the operation position is facing the keyboard substantially perpendicular to rows of keys of the keyboard (see col. 4, lines 37-42).

Referring to claim 7, Fig. 9 of Jingu shows a movable stand (20), further comprising a display device (62) positioned above the control panel (46), wherein the accessory device (84) is positioned below the control panel.

Referring to claim 10, Jingu discloses a movable stand, wherein the accessory device (84) comprises at least one of a printer and a video-cassette recorder (see col. 5 lines 60-61).

Referring to claim 11, Jingu discloses a movable stand, further comprising at least one caster (22) connected with a bottom of the stand. See Figs. 2-10 and col. 3, line 66.

Referring to claim 12, Jingu discloses a movable stand, further comprising an ultrasound system within the moveable stand (see col. 3, lines 62-66).

Referring to claim 22, Jingu inherently discloses a method for ergonomically connecting ultrasound system components, the method comprising the steps: (a) mounting an accessory device (84) with an ultrasound system stand (20), the accessory device having a user interface (i.e., open slot); (b) mounting a control panel (46) to the ultrasound system stand (20); (c) orienting the control panel at more than 10 degrees and less than 80 degrees to the user interface of the accessory device relative to an operator position based on the mounting of (a) and (b), see Fig. 7 and the corresponding specification; (d) connecting a transducer connector (82) on a vertical surface of the ultrasound system stand (20); and (e) orienting the control panel at more than 10 degrees and less than 80 degrees to the transducer connector (82) relative to the operator position, the transducer connector (82) spaced 90 to 270 degrees around the diameter of the ultrasound system stand from the user interface of the accessory device. See Figs. 7 and 9 and the corresponding specification.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13-21, 23 and 24 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the primary reason for allowance of claim 13, and the corresponding method claim 23, is the limitation of a transducer connector connected with the stand, such that a top of the transducer connector is below a top of the display and above a lowest portion of the control panel. These features, in combination with the rest of the elements or steps, are not taught or suggested by the prior art references. Claims 14-21 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 13. Likewise, claim 24 depends from claim 23. These claims are, therefore, allowable for at least the reasons provided above.

Claims 8 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the primary reason for allowability of claims 8 and 9 is the specific limitation of at least a portion of the transducer connector being at a same height as at least a portion of the control panel, and a top of the transducer connector being below a top of the display and above a lowest portion of the control panel, respectively. These features, in combination with the rest of the elements or steps, are not taught or suggested by the prior art references.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: U.S. Patent No. 5,924,988 to Burris et al. disclose an ultrasound system display device and U.S. Design Patent No. 368,521 to Asai et al. disclose a design for an ultrasonic diagnostic unit.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony Q. Edwards whose telephone number is 571-272-2042. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-3:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached on 571-272-2800, ext. 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

April 28, 2004
aqe


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